In the Written Description

**Page 3, line 22, amend the third paragraph to read:**

U.S. Patents 4,194,500; 4,269,179; and 4,524,763 each disclose a gravity spine traction device combining the use of an inclined surface having a frame from which a traction brace depends and girds the torso of patients using the device to receive back stretching treatments. These earlier patents recognize that about 45% of the body weight is in the lower half of the body and have designed upper body harnesses which firmly attach to the patients body just below the rib cage. The supporting frame of a board assembly allows the patient to be suspended on a board so that the weight of the lower body applies tension force to the patient's lumbar spine region. Patent 4,524,763 specifically describes a frame and torso harness system adapted to maintain the thigh portion of the patient's legs in variable angular relation to the long axis of the patient's spine when applying tension traction. The assembly of Patent 4,269,179 requires a block and tackle pulley mechanism to hoist the patient off the floor to a traction force-imposing position. U.S. Patent 4,194,500 assembly includes a pair of spaced apart single foot steps on which the patient stands to don the torso harness and then removes both feet from the steps to suspend from the frame as shown.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 13, and 16 to read:

1. A vertical traction assembly for using gravity to stretch a person's spine, said assembly comprising:

a) frame means and torso harness means coupled to depend from said frame means,

b) said harness means being effective to maintain a person in a vertical traction suspension position after the person dons said harness means, and

d) traction force focusing means attached to the frame means for applying a predetermined amount of focused traction pressure directly to a selected location along the spine of the person who is in said vertical traction suspension position.

2. An assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein

stand means disposed on said frame means includes non-traction receiving surface means on which a person stands for donning the torso harness means before applying said predetermined amount of focused traction pressure.

7. An assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein

said frame means is free standing and said harness means depends downwardly from said frame means,

said focused traction force means being effective to derive said focused traction pressure from a portion of the weight of the person in said traction position, and

said vertical traction suspension position is a gravity traction suspension position with said person being vertically suspended with the harness means to produce said focused traction pressure.

9. A vertical traction assembly for using gravity to stretch a person's spine, said assembly comprising:

a) frame means and torso harness means coupled to flexibly depend from said frame means, and

b) stand means mounted to said frame means to provide a first non-traction receiving surface on which a person may stand to don the torso harness means and a second partial traction receiving surface on which a person may stand to adjust said harness means with respect to the

person's torso and assembly before the person voluntarily steps to a vertical, gravity traction suspension position,

c) said harness means being effective to suspend the person from the frame means for a partial traction pressure when the person stands on said second partial traction receiving surface after donning said harness means,

e) said partial traction pressure being less than a full traction pressure that is applied to the person who is in said vertical, gravity traction suspension position.

13. An assembly as defined in claim 10 wherein

said frame means includes a front rearwardly tilted frame portion including backboard means,

said traction force focusing means includes pad element means adjustably mounted to the backboard means and releasable fastening means for selectively positioning the pad element means with respect to a person using said assembly to undergo vertical traction treatment in a full suspension position.

16. A traction method for treating an inflamed area adjacent a person's backbone, said method comprising:

a) providing frame means and torso girding means coupled to flexibly depend from said frame means, said frame means including traction force focusing means for applying an amount of focused traction pressure directly to a selected location along the spine of the person who is in a vertical, gravity traction suspension position,

b) girding said person with said torso girding means,

c) deriving a horizontally directed traction pressure from the weight of said person who is in said vertical, gravity traction suspension position, and